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Application No. 10/829,253
Amendment dated December 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 24, 2006

- R E M A R K S / A R G U M E N T S -

Claims 1 to 3 and 5 to 16 remain in the application.

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(B) as being anticipated by Canadian Patent No. 2,297,220 (Desrochers et al.).

Reconsideration is expected on the following grounds.

As opposed to the present invention, Desrochers et al. teaches transferring a torque from the pulley 20 to shaft 12 via an intermediate part interacting with the pulley, namely the cam member 16 from which the driving pin 60 extends for engaging pin 54 on shaft 12. The pulley 20 is not fixed on the shaft 12 and, thus, not connected in direct driving engagement therewith. The pulley 20 carries a roller 34 for interacting on cam 16 to drive shaft 12. Accordingly, the pulley cannot be mounted at either end portions of the shaft 12 irrespectively of the cam member 16 carrying the driving pin 60. The pulley 20 has to be mounted adjacent to the cam member 16. This is contrary to the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, independent Claims 1 and 15 are clearly patentable over Desrochers et al.

Regarding dependent Claims 3 and 9, it is respectfully submitted that Desrochers et al.'s shaft 12 is stationary in the axial direction. The shaft 12 can only be driven in rotation. It is the cam member 16 that slides on shaft 12 to permit the engagement of driving pin 50 with pin 54 and, thus, permit the shaft 12 to be manually driven by the pulley 14.

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In view of the foregoing, the claims are believed patentable over the cited references and an early action to that effect would be much appreciated.

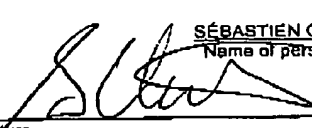
Respectfully submitted,

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By:

December 20, 2006
Date


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